While the provision of civic amenities is a continuing process, all these Cantonment Boards maintain civic amenties to a reasonably satisfactory level and strive to improve the same depending on availability of funds.

These Cantonment Boards have received service charges amounting to about Rs. 5.57 Crore which can be utilised by them for providing civic amenities like potable water, sanitation, roads etc. The Lansdowne Cantonment Board has been given recently Rs. 6.46 lakh as Special Grant-in-aid for augmentation of water supply.

Allotment of additional funds during the current year will also be considered as per availability of funds within the overall allocation for Central assistance, taking in view requests received from these Boards.

Contracts for Purchase of Hawk-115

134. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Governement have signed a contract for the purchase of 66 HAWK-type-115 trainer aircraft from British Aerospace after an evaluation period of 20 years;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Rapid Action Force are now, flying an advanced version of the HAWK, Type-128, which indicates that the Type-115 is now obsolete; and

(c) if so, the reason for Govenrment opting for the obsolete Type-115 when the current Type-126 is now in service?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Government have decided to induct HAWK Advanced Jet Trainer (AJT) of BAE Systems of UK for the Indian Air Force. No contract has been signed for the procurement.

(b) and (c) Royal Air Force, UK is not currently flying HAWK type 128. Government have not opted for an obsolete HAWK AJT.